

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

**ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

7 NOVEMBER 1963
~~**TOP SECRET**~~

1. South Vietnam

a. The generals have formed a 12-man Military Executive Committee headed by General Minh to control Premier Tho's provisional government.

b. They have also created a "council of sages" from nationalist and professional groups to advise on the rights of citizens and the transition to permanent government.

c. There are already complaints from some Vietnamese political elements that the government is too technical, not representative, lacking in political acumen, and not able to hold popular support for very long.

d. The generals, aware of their own internal divisions, have formed a small group amongst themselves to take the collective pulse from time to time to lessen friction and avoid splits.

e. Diem appointees, particularly in the police and intelligence services, are still being sacked. The new police director, General Mai Huu Xuan, is hiring old associates in the intelligence business, most of whom once worked with the French.

(Cont'd)

f. Halberstam's blow by blow account of the coup in yesterday's New York Times appears to be substantially correct. We still do not have confirmed details on how General Ton That Dinh was brought into the coup but Halberstam's account appears plausible. It also serves to reinforce the idea that Dinh will have to be watched closely.

2. USSR

a. Guy Mollet left Moscow for home highly impressed by Khrushchey; he told the French minister he would never again voice the criticisms of the Soviet leader which he leveled at the time of the Hungarian revolt.

b. Mollet came away from his two sessions with the Soviet leaders (one, eight and one half hours, the other, two hours) convinced that Khrushchey's personal power position is absolutely solid. He felt that others on the presidium are "small boys responding to the master"; he sees Podgorny not Brezhnev as the "head boy."

c. Khrushchey, says Mollet, is now a genuine world statesman, dedicated to the cause of peace. Peaceful

(Cont'd)

coexistence and detente are not just slogans or tactical devices but are seen by Khrushchev as imperatives of international life in the nuclear age.

d. Khrushchev made this impact on Mollet without saying anything new on specific issues and in spite of a flat turn-down of Mollet's pet scheme for channeling aid to under-developed countries through international organizations.

3. USSR

a. A West German correspondent in Moscow, considered reliable by his embassy, reports [redacted] that strikes occurred last week in the Ukrainian cities of Krivoi Rog and Odessa.

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b. At Krivoi Rog (about 160 miles northeast of Odessa) workers sat down by their machines and refused to work because of the bread shortage. They demanded more wages to offset their inability to buy bread.

c. In Odessa dockworkers refused to load butter for Cuba.

(Cont'd)

d. [] neither
police nor soldiers were used in
either case, [] did not know if
or how the strikes were settled.

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4. USSR-Cuba

a. We suspect that the remain-
ing Soviet military forces in Cuba
now have the status of a military
aid mission []

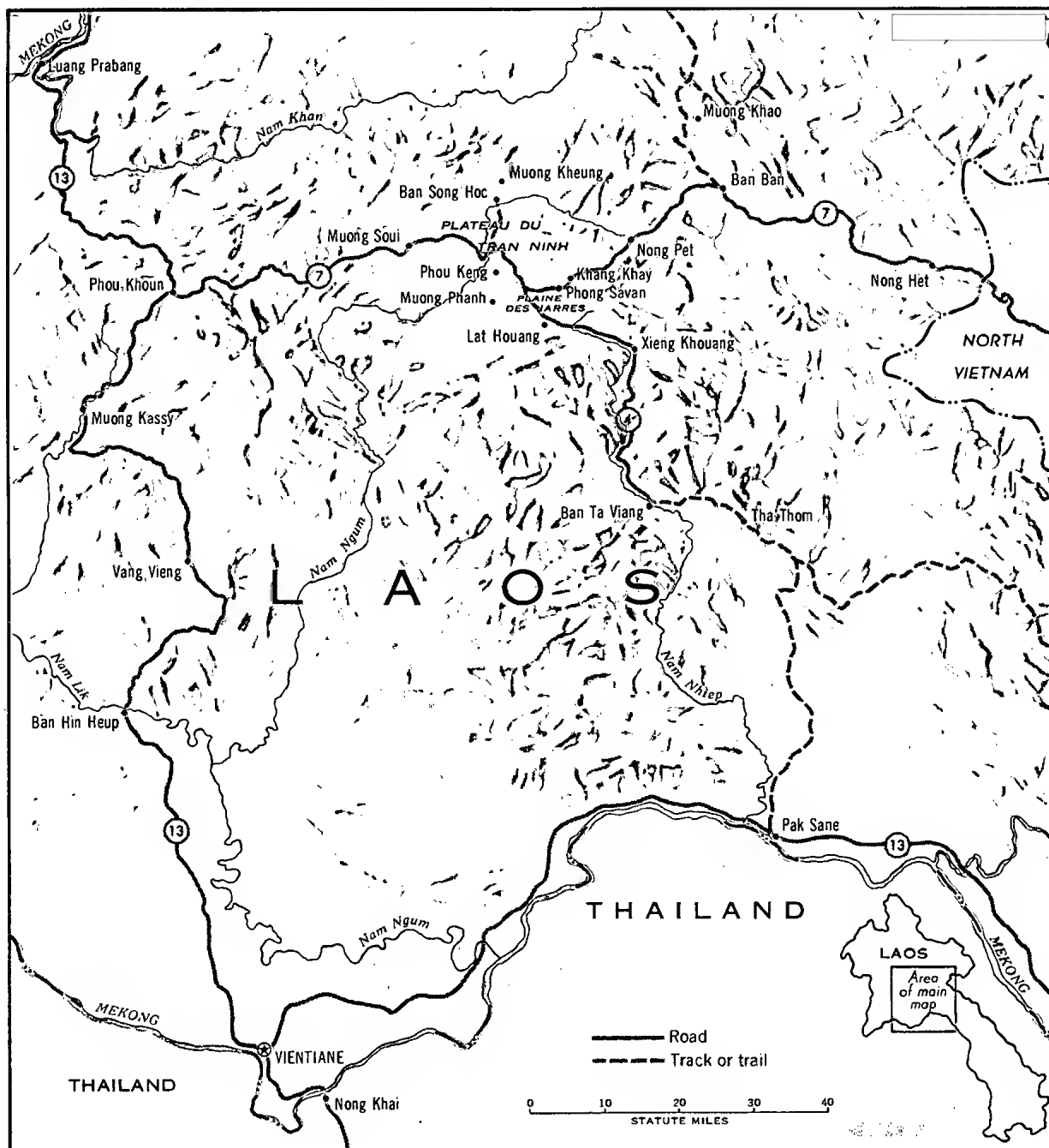
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c. Prensa Latina, the Cuban
news agency, reports that New York
Timesman Herbert Matthews, who ar-
rived in Cuba late last month, has
been touring Oriente Province with
the director of the National Insti-
tute for Hydraulic Resources.

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5. Laos

a. [redacted] the Communists plan clearing actions [redacted] on two fronts: the first across the northern edge of the Plaine des Jarres through Muong Soui and along Route 7 to Phou Khoum; the second from Xieng Khouang Ville to Tha Thom.

b. The Pathet Lao have recently stepped up their efforts to assure the security of Route 7, their major supply artery.

c. They have captured several key Meo positions along this road east of the Plaine des Jarres and have others under pressure.

d. [redacted] these moves will be designed to link up with isolated Communist forces near the junction of routes 7 and 13.

6. Indonesia

a. [redacted]
[redacted]
First Minister Djuanda died [redacted]
[redacted]

(Cont'd)

b. Delay on the appointment of a successor to Djuanda could result in some jockeying for position

[REDACTED]

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7. Communist
China - France

a. De Gaulle has told Ambassador Bohlen in response to a direct question that he has no intention of setting up diplomatic relations with Peiping "at this time."

b. He went on to say, however, that "sooner or later" some relationship would have to be worked out with Communist China. He added that if ever the time came when the French were contemplating recognition the US would certainly be informed in advance.

c. Ambassador Bohlen comments that De Gaulle seems to accept recognition at some future date as inevitable, but it is Bohlen's impression that this event is quite far in the future.

[REDACTED]

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8. Rumania-
Yugoslavia

a. The Yugoslavs report that Rumania party boss Gheorghiu-Dej will pay them a visit within the next ten days.

b. The rumor in Belgrade is that he will sign an agreement on joint Rumanian-Yugoslav construction of a power and navigation project on the Danube.

c. Rumania has heretofore been the most reluctant of the Soviet bloc states to improve relations with Yugoslavia though it has loosened up in other departments.

9. East Germany -
Ulbricht

a. Walter Ulbricht's absence last week from the party central committee plenum for the first time in many years points up the fact that the 70-year-old leader is showing signs of physical strain.

b. Last February he cancelled an appearance at a civic celebration and was out of public view for three weeks. He later had a month's vacation in April-May and another month in July-August.

c. The party plenum seems to have been run by Politburo stalwart Erich Honecker;

[REDACTED]

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d. This would lead to the conclusion that Ulbricht's day-to-day personal direction of East German affairs is no longer quite as essential in maintaining party unity and internal security as it once was.

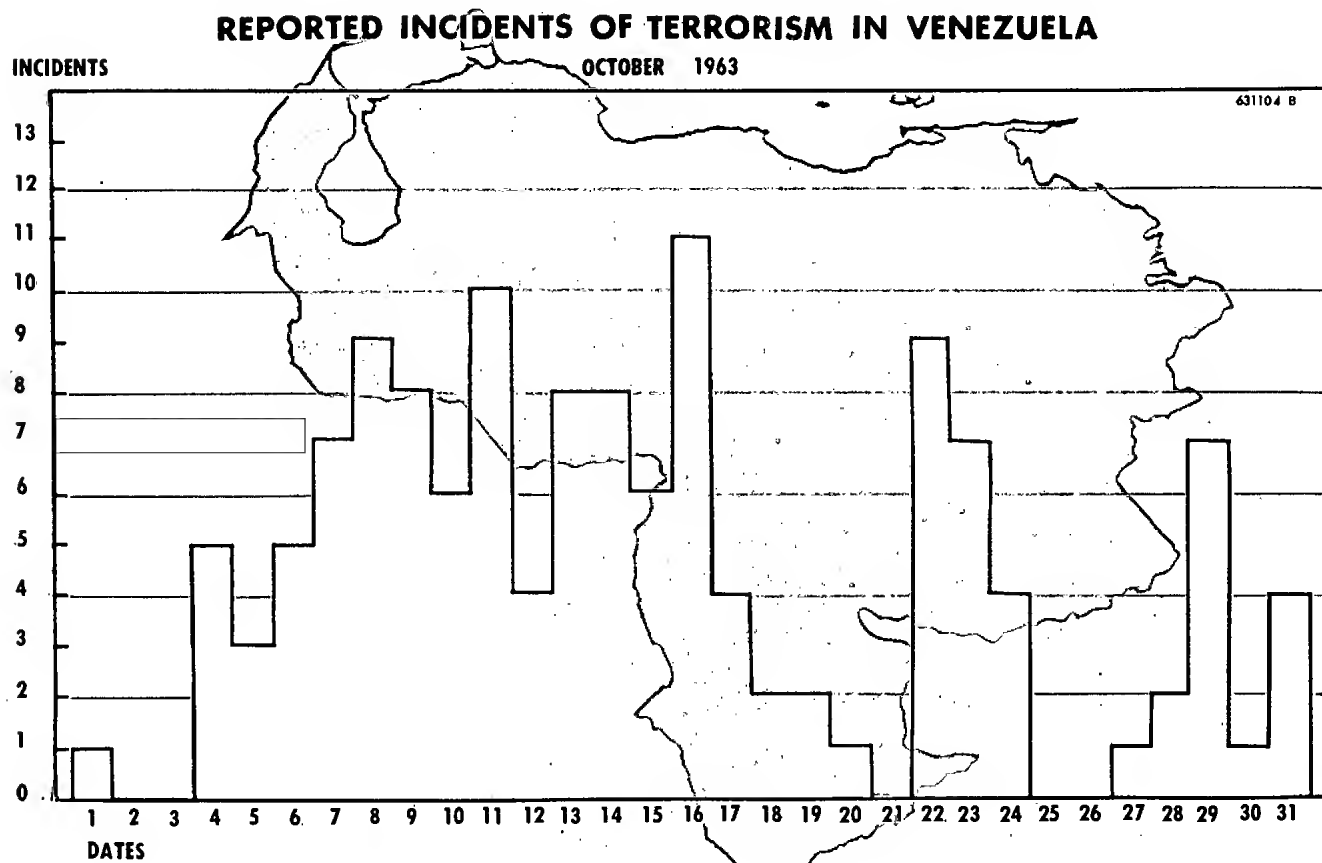
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10. Venezuela

a. The sabotage of the Creole Petroleum Company's pipeline last Monday is the eighth time in 18 months that this has happened.

(Cont'd)



b. President Betancourt's decision in early October to augment police forces with army units has succeeded in reducing terrorism in Caracas but has been less effective in the outlying areas.

c. The attached chart records the number of incidents in October. We look for even more this month as the date for presidential elections approaches.

NOTES

A. Rumania A Rumanian news agency official has pressed visiting Washington Post European Correspondent Walter Estabrook to establish a permanent news office in Bucharest. Estabrook told legation officials that the Post had been negotiating with the Soviet Government for some time on opening an office in Moscow. He said that if these talks continued to drag on he would recommend that his paper open a bureau in Bucharest.

B. Dominican Republic [redacted] the pro-Castro 14 of June Political Group (APCJ) intends to raise the flag of armed insurrection [redacted]

[redacted] While Dominican military leaders are alert to possible APCJ moves, we cannot dismiss the possibility that something may get started.

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